



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Idaho Potato Production Decreases from Last Year

Idaho's potato production is expected to total 117 million cwt, down 11 percent from last year's 132 million cwt, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is Idaho's smallest production total since 1989. Planted acres of 325,000 and harvested acres of 323,000 are down 5,000 acres from previously set estimates and down 30,000 acres from 2004. This is the smallest potato acreage in Idaho since 1986. Statewide, yield is 362 cwt (field-run basis), down 12 cwt from last year's record high. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 465 cwt, is down 25 cwt from 2004. Total production in the area is down 20 percent from last year at 9.77 million cwt from 21,000 harvested acres. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 355 cwt, compared to 365 cwt a year ago. Other area production from 302,000 harvested acres is expected to total 107 million cwt, 10 percent below last year's 120 million cwt. Idaho's sugarbeet production for 2005 is forecast at 4.69 million tons compared to 5.51 million tons a year ago. Yield of 28.1 tons per acre is down from last year's 28.7 tons. Harvested acres of 167,000 is down from 2004's 192,000 harvested acres. Idaho's dry edible pea production is estimated at 598 thousand cwt, a decrease of 36 percent from the 935 thousand cwt produced in 2004. Lentil production of 567 thousand cwt is also down from last year's 770 thousand cwt. Austrian winter pea production of 88 thousand cwt is down 48 percent from the 168 thousand cwt produced in 2004.

Nationally: Production of fall potatoes for 2005 is forecast at 382 million cwt, down 7 percent from a year ago. Area harvested, at 951,800 acres, is down 7 percent from last year. The average yield for the fall crop is estimated at a record high 402 cwt per acre, 1 cwt above the previous high set last year. Sugarbeet production for the U. S. is forecast at 27.3 million tons, down 9 percent from last year's production. Area for harvest, at 1.24 million acres, is down 5 percent from 2004. Yields are expected to average 22.0 tons per acre compared to 22.9 tons last year. Dry edible pea production for the U. S. is expected to total 13.8 million cwt, up 21 percent from the 2004 estimate. Lentil production, at 5.10 million cwt is up 22 percent from 2004. Austrian winter pea production of 324 thousand cwt, is up 11 percent from last year.

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